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Erick. Maldonado

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Technology Center 2100

Attorney Docket No. FUJA 18.570(100794-11683)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE RECEIVED

Inventor:

Katsuaki AKAMA

Serial No.:

09/829,674

Filed:

April 10, 2001

Title:

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Examiner:

Gail O. Hayes

Art Unit:

2131

July 23, 2003

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

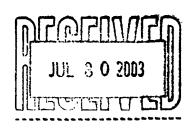
<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of a European Search Report dated July 3, 2003 from the corresponding European Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the European Search Report.



Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean

Reg. No. 44,528

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-2585 (212) 940-8800

DOCKET NO.: FUJA 18.570(100794-11683)

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	Sheet 1 of 1		Examiner Name	: G.O. HAYES	
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XP004164023; ISSN: 0167-4048

ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS; VOL. 18, NO. 3, 1999: pp. 221-230

'Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ¹ Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ³ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1° if possible. ⁴ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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